(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to form an action plan wherein non-salaried class will be brought under tax net;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. Non-salaried class is already required to pay tax under the existing provisions of the Income-tax Act. Widening of base of taxpayers is an ongoing exercise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

**Bank loan to farmers in Uttaranchal**

† 2170. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided by various Nationalised and Co-opeative Banks for the agricultural sector in the State of Uttaranchal during the last two years;

(b) whether Government have received complaints that Banks have not provided loans to the farmers for agriculture diversification irrigation and storage, and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take for the redressal of the said grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of the amount of loan provided by nationalized banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Co-operative Banks for the agriculture sector in the State of Uttaranchal during the last two years are given below:

*{Rs. In lakhs)*

| Agency | 2001 -02 | 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|
| Nationalised Banks | 20,945.33 | 26,811.64 |
| Regional Rural Banks | 2.882.38 | 13047.08 |
| District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) | 12,902.20 | 2.450.28 |
| State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) | 2,048 96 | 3,835.26 |
| TOTAL. | 38,778.87 | 46,144.26 |

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) In order to increase the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities in the country by 30% during the current year and to double the flow in three years, Government has announced on 18.6.2004 a detailed programme for implementation by commercial banks, RRBs and Co-operative Banks, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have issued guidelines to banks to implement the above programme. The announcement also envisages several reliefs to farmers to access fresh institutional credit.

**Circulation of fake currency notes**

2171. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the instances of detection of circulation of counterfeit currency notes, both of lower and higher denominations during the last three years;

(b) the details of number of Notifications issued by Reserve Bank of India relating to modification, cancellation or withdrawal of specific series of currency notes during the said period;

(c) the background of issuance of each Notification and result of their issuances;

(d) the precautions taken, if any, to provide safeguard against circulation of conterfeit currency;

(e) the estimated volume of fake currency notes pumped into our system; and

(f) the agencies responsible for detection, prevention and prosecution in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As perinformation furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau, details of fake currency unearthed during the last three years are as follows:—

| Year | Total No. of cases | Total No. of pieces | Value in Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 934 | 216100 | 53117374 |
| 2002 | 829 | 331034 | 66268332 |
| 2003* | 1465 | 388860 | 57592780 |

* Figures are provisional.